Cardamom Plantations to help the small and marginal farmers to replace the low yielding variety with the high yielding variety. Another scheme *viz.* Export Oriented Production & Post Harvest Improvement of Spices, is also in operation which facilitate improvement of production, productivity and quality of cardamom.

Towards promoting organic production of spices, under the scheme for Export Oriented Production, there are programmes for supporting production of organic input *viz*, vermicompost, assistance for setting up bio-agent production units and assistance for organic certification. Under the scheme, organic production of cardamom (large) in North-Eastern States is also promoted by Spices Board.

(c) and (d) There are no reports of transit smuggling of organic cardamom imported from Guatemala for Nepal. Spices Board is monitoring the imports of cardamom from various ports and sending the domestic prices of cardamom to all the major customs on a weekly basis. For the last few years, the Indian cardamom growers are getting better prices.

Impact of global meltdown on FDI

426. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to economic meltdown in the world, a huge amount of Foreign Direct Investment or a direct investment has been withdrawn;

(b) the details of amount withdrawn, month-wise, during the last one year; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government so that more FDIs can be attracted and in what sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows in the country have increased from US$ 5.5 billion in 2005-06 to US$ 27.31 billion in the year 2008-09. The FDI inflows in 2007-08 were US $ 24.58 billion and increased to US $ 27.31 billion in 2008-09, despite the economic slowdown, showing a percentage growth of 11% over the previous financial year. A Statement on month-wise FDI equity inflows during the financial year 2008-09 is given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(c) Government has put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy on FDI under which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in most sectors/ activities, including infrastructure and Research and Development (R&D). The UNCTAD World Investment Reports (WIR) 2007 & 2008, in their analysis of the global trends and sustained growth of Foreign Direct Investment.(FDI) inflows, have reported India as the second most attractive location for FDI for 2007- 2009. India has retained the second place in A. T. Kearney's 2007 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index, a position it has held since 2005. Government has also announced a slew of measures to accelerate the demand in the economy which would enable India to continue as an attractive investment destination. Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions of investors are

based on the macro-economic policy framework, investment climate in the State, investment policies of the transnational corporations and other commercial considerations.

The Government of India continues to make efforts to increase economic cooperation with the developing as well as developed countries through different fora such as Joint Commissions/Joint Committees, other bilateral channels like interaction with the delegations visiting the country and organizing visits abroad for discussions on issues of mutual interest and business/ investment meets between Indian and foreign entrepreneurs to stimulate foreign investment into India. The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion also participates in discussions covering industrial cooperation organized by other Ministries and Departments of Government of India and the Joint Business Council meetings.

The Government of India also undertakes investment promotion activities through organisation of Destination India and Invest India events in various countries with FDI potential to create awareness about the investment climate and opportunities in India, as well as to provide support to potential investors.

The Government of India, in partnership with various State Government and Business Associations, is making concerted efforts to make regulations conducive for business. In addition, the Government has initiated to implement e-Biz Project, a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Project, to provide online registration, filing payment services to investors and business houses.

Statement

FDI equity inflows during financial year 2008-09

Financial Year 2008-09 (April-March)		Amount of FDI inflows (In Rs. crore)	(In US$ mn)
1.	April 2008	15,005	3,749
2.	May 2008	16,563	3,932
3.	June 2008	10,244	2,392
4.	July 2008	9,627	2,247
5.	August 2008	9,995	2,328
6.	September 2008	11,676	2,562
7.	October 2008	7,284	1,497
8.	November 2008	5,305	1,083
9.	December 2008	6,626	1,362
10.	January 2009	13,347	2,733
11.	February 2009	7,223	1,466
12.	March 2009	10,023	1,957
	2008-09 (up to March 2009)	122,919	27,309
	2007-08 (up to March 2008)	98,664	24,580
	%age growth over last year	(+) 25 %	(+) 11 %